Adoption of crop projection technologies

*73. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian agriculture may loose Kharif crops worth Rs. 55000 crores in 2007, if newer crop projection technologies are not adopted;

(b) if so, whether the country has lost agricultural produce worth Rs. 90,000 crores during the last year to pests, weeds and diseases as per the Chairman of the Agro Chemical Promotion Group;

(c) if so, the other main issues suggested by the Chairman to boost agriculture expansion machinery to setup knowledge transfer to farmers which would also help to create awareness about the correct use of agro-chemicals; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Government is adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principal of plant protection that include scientific use of chemical pesticides and biological means of control of pests. This strategy ensures prevention of any outbreak of major pests.

(b) There are no scientific estimates of crop losses due to pests, weeds and diseases, as the damage depends on various factors *inter-alia,* whether conditions, crop cultural practices, plant protection practices etc. However the crop losses due to pests, weeds and diseases is approximately assessed to be ranging between 10 to 30% of crop production, depending on the factors indicated above.

(c) Pesticide industry and their associations, including the Agro Chemicals Promotion Group suggested various measures for promoting safe use of pesticides such as imparting training to farmers in appropriate use of pesticides, strengthening of regulatory processes to address the problem of spurious pesticides, reduction of taxes on pesticides, registering more pesticides to give farmers more choice and benefit of latest technology, promoting enhanced use of pesticides etc.

(d) The policy of the Government is promotion of IPM as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management Centres, across the country to, *inter-alia,* undertake pest surveillance and provide advisories to the State Governments on pest management, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field Schools, encourage use of biological means of pest management, etc. The State Governments have, from time to time, been advised of the need to strictly enforce the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, to control the sale of spurious pesticides. The Registration Committee constituted, under the Insecticides Act, 1968, has introduced simplified procedure for the registration of pesticides after satisfying themselves of their safety and efficacy.

Price rise of drugs

†*74. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the prices of drugs during the period from January, 2006 to October, 2006 and from 1st November, 2006 to 31st December, 2006 respectively;

(b) the reasons for such a huge increase in the prices of drugs; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to roll back the increase in prices of drugs and the outcome thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95), the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulation containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/ formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 95.

During the period from January, 2006 to October, 2006, prices of 55 bulk drugs were fixed out of which prices of 7 bulk drugs have been

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.